

Appl. No. 10/823,078
Reply to Office Action of March 22, 2007
Amendment dated: July 23, 2007

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the prior art rejections set forth by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. sections 102 and 103. Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art references of record, whether considered alone, or in combination, fail to either teach or suggest Applicants' presently claimed invention. More specifically, by this Amendment, Applicants have modified the independent claim to specify that the resistance measuring unit measures an indication of the electrical resistance across the substrate at a plurality of locations around the periphery of the substrate.

Applicants further note that although the Wang reference does describe polishing endpoint detection, neither this prior art reference nor any other reference of record provides any teaching or suggestion whatsoever regarding the use of multiple pairs of electrodes located at opposite sides of the wafer that is being polished for the purpose of measuring resistance characteristics at a plurality of locations around the wafer. As described in the specification of the instant application, the use of a plurality of electrodes can achieve greater uniformity for the resultant product. See specifically, the paragraph beginning on the bottom of page 14 through page 15 of the instant specification wherein the specification notes that a plurality of pairs of electrodes may be used as the electrodes for the management of the resistance value. The specification further indicates that the plurality of pairs of electrodes may be installed for the measurement of non-uniformity in the plane of the wafer thereby permitting a more highly accurate detection of the termination point of electrolytic polishing.

Applicants also submit that the modification to the claim as described above also overcomes the double patenting rejection set forth by the Examiner. Accordingly, in light of

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the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims in the instant application now
stand in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

7/23/07

Robert J. Depke, Reg. No. 37,607
ROCKEY, DEPKE, LYONS LLC
233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 5450
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Tel: (312) 277-2600
Attorneys for Applicant